Cultural Ties between India-China

301. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held recently between India and China to improve cultural ties between the two countries; and

(b) is so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A delegation led by the Secretary, Department of Culture, visited China from the 22nd to the 29th May, 1988. The first ever Cultural Agreement between India and China was signed during the visit. Bilateral cultural exchanges for 1988-89 were also negotiated.

Judicial officers in the country

302. SHRI T. R BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commisison in its recent report recommended for increasing the strength of judicial officers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what decision Government have taken on these recommendations so far;

(d) what is the present strength of judicial officials in the country; and

(e) whether there has been any increase in the past in the strength of judicial officers, if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission in its 120th Report on 'Manpower Planning in Judiciary, A Blueprint had recommended increasing the strength of judicial officers in the country. This Report was laid on the Table of the House in the last session.

(b) A Statement containing gist of observations and the recommendation with regard to increasing the strength of judicial officers in the country made by the Law Commission in the aforesaid Report is annexed herewith. (*See below*).

(c) The Report of the Law Commission has been sent to the State Governments/ Union territory Administrations for their views.

(d) As per the information available, the sanctioned strength of judicial officers in the country is as under:

Supreme Court : 26 as on 1.7.88.

High Courts : 444 as on 1.7.88

District and
Subordinate courts: 8801 as on 1.1.85

(e) The sanctioned strength of Supreme Court was increased from 18 to 26 (including CJI) with effect from 9.5.1986. The sanctioned strength of High Courts was increased from 431 as on 1.7.1986 to 441 as on 1.7.1987 and to 444 as on 1.7.1988.

Statement

Gist of observations and the recommendation with regard to increasing the stregnth of judicial owners in the country made in the 120th Report of the Law Commission on 'Manpower Planning in Judiciary: A Blueprint'

The Commission has observed that the strength of Judicial Officers in India is far less as compared to certain other countries. In India, the strength of Judges is 10.5 per million population, whereas in Australia it was 41 6 Judges per million population in 1975; in Canada it was 75.2 Judges per million population in 1973; in England it was 50.9 Judges per million population in 1973 and in the Union States it was 107 Judges per million population in 1981.

The Commission has recommended that the present strength of 10.5 judges per million population be increased to 50 Judges per million population. On account of

resource constraints, the strength may be increased in a phased manner spread over five years or maximum ten years. By the year 2000, India should have at least 107 Judges per million population, which ratio the United States had in 1981 The *inter se* distribution of enhanced number of Judges among various cadres State-wise should be on the basis of institution of cases. As the expenses of the High Court and the Subordinate Judiciary are charged on the Consolidated Fund of the States, it would be appropriate to leave it to the States to work out the rise in expenditure.

Pending cases and vacant posts of Judges in Supreme Court

303. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases which are pending before the Supreme Court of India for disposal as on 30th June, 1988;

(b) the number of cases which are pending for more than (i) 3 years, (ii) 5 years and (iii) 10 years;

(c) what is the number of vacancies of judges that are in the Supreme Court of India as on 30th June, 1988;

(d) the number of special leave petitions writ petitions and appeals which were pending for disposal during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 category-wise figure thereof;

(e) the number of cases disposed of by the Court during the last 3 years category-wise figures; and

(f) what steps are being taken to fill up the vacancies and to dispose of long pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registry of the Supreme Court, the total number of cases pending in the Supreme Court as on 30-6-1988 was 1,85,950 out of which 39936 were Regular Hearing Matters and 146014 were Admission and Miscellaneous Matters.

(b) As on 1-1-1988, cases pending before Supreme Court for more than 3, 5 and 10 years were 26,223, 16,277 and 3540, respectively.

(c) As on 30-6-1988 there were 9 vacancies in the authorised strength of 26 Judges.

(d) and (e) Statement indicating category-wise figures of pendency and disposal as furnished by the Registry of the Supreme Court is annexed herewith as Statement I (*See below*).

(f) The matter of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court is engaging the attention of the Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. A statement indcating the steps being taken to expedite disposal of cases in the Supreme Court is annexed herewith as Statement II (*See* below)

Statement-I

The number of Special Leave Petitions, Writ Petitions and Appeals pending for disposal during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 was as under :

	1985	1986	1987
Special Leave Petitions	28907	36159	43397
Writ Petitions	27029	17447	14257
Appeals	31311	30822	32977